

Appln. No. 10/776,414

Attorney Docket No. 11138-010

I. Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A customizing kit for a vehicle air suspension system, comprising an additional air spring volume with a connecting line which can be connected to a vehicle main air spring volume and with a switching device for selective connection or disconnection of the additional air spring volume, with the switching device being arranged in an area of the connecting line and being designed such that, when the switching device is in an open position, the switching device releases the cross section of the connecting line virtually completely for flow to pass through in both directions and when the switching device is in a closed position, reduces the cross section to a specific residual opening cross section, such that an effective closure of the connecting line results by use of a Helmholtz effect in a specific region of an excitation frequency of the oscillating air volume.

2. (Currently Amended) The customizing kit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the switching device is formed by a restrictor valve, which is in the form of a disk, is arranged in the connecting line and is mounted such that the restrictor valve can rotate about a shaft running transversely with respect to the connecting line such that a disk surface of the restrictor valve is aligned in the longitudinal direction of the connecting line in the open position, and is aligned in the transverse direction in the closed position, with the residual opening cross section in the closed position being formed by a circumferential gap which surrounds the restrictor valve.

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3. (Previously Presented) The customizing kit as claimed in claim 2, wherein the restrictor valve can be operated mechanically, without any connection and without any contact, by means of at least one magnetic field from a magnet arrangement which is arranged outside the connecting line.

4. (Previously Presented) The customizing kit as claimed in claim 3, wherein the restrictor valve is mounted via opposite shaft ends within the connecting line, in particular in bearing openings in a retaining bush which is inserted into the connecting line.

5. (Withdrawn) The customizing kit as claimed in claim 4, wherein the retaining bush is subdivided into two parts in a radial or axial plane which preferably runs through the bearing openings, such that the two parts can be joined together, holding the shaft ends of the restrictor valve.

6. (Previously Presented) The customizing kit as claimed in claim 3, wherein the restrictor valve is magnetized such that it can be aligned in a corresponding manner to the magnetic field from the external magnet arrangement.

7. (Previously Presented) The customizing kit as claimed in claim 6, wherein the restrictor valve has a correspondingly magnetized magnet element, in particular a ring magnet.

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8. (Withdrawn) The customizing kit as claimed in claim 6,
wherein the restrictor valve is composed of a plastic-bonded permanent magnet.

9. (Previously Presented) The customizing kit as claimed in claim 3,
wherein the external magnet arrangement has at least one magnet element
which is electromagnetically in the form of a solenoid coil which can be controlled
electrically or can be moved physically, or is in the form of a permanent magnet
which can be moved physically.

10. (Withdrawn) The customizing kit as claimed in claim 3,
wherein the restrictor valve has a rest position which is governed by spring force
and has a mechanical end stop, from which it can be moved to an operating
position by means of the magnetic field from the external magnet arrangement.

11. (Previously Presented) The customizing kit as claimed in claim 3,
wherein the restrictor valve can rotate freely about the shaft, with the magnet
arrangement having a first and second magnet element such that the restrictor
valve can be aligned in the closed position by the magnetic field of the first magnet
element and can be aligned in the open position by the magnetic field of the second
magnet element.



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12. (Previously Presented) The customizing kit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the restrictor valve can be aligned in any desired intermediate position by superimposition of the magnetic fields of the first and second magnet elements.

13. (Withdrawn) The customizing kit as claimed in claim 2, wherein the restrictor valve is asymmetrically subdivided into two valve sections by the shaft, such that, when restrictor valve is in the open position, fluttering movements caused by the flow are avoided.

14. (Previously Presented) A switching device for a customizing kit, having a restrictor valve which can be arranged in a connecting line and can rotate between an open position and a closed position, with a specific residual opening cross section remaining in the closed position.

15. (Withdrawn) The switching device as claimed in claim 14, wherein a magnet arrangement, which can be arranged outside the connecting line in the vicinity of the restrictor valve, in order to mechanically operate the restrictor valve without any connection and without any contact, with the restrictor valve being magnetized with two or more poles.

16. (Withdrawn) The switching device as claimed in claim 15,



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wherein the magnet arrangement has at least two magnet elements for producing superimposed magnetic fields for the purpose of alignment of the restrictor valve on the basis of an overall magnetic field which results from the superimposed magnetic fields.

17. (Previously Presented) The switching device as claimed in claim 16, wherein a first magnet element produces a magnetic field which runs transversely within the connecting line and a second magnet element produces a magnetic field which runs longitudinally within the connecting line.

18. (Withdrawn) The switching device as claimed in claim 16, wherein at least two magnet elements are provided in order to produce magnetic fields which run parallel but have opposite polarity.

19. (Previously Presented) The switching device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the magnet arrangement has at least one solenoid coil which can be driven electrically or can be moved mechanically, or has at least one permanent magnet which can be moved mechanically.



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